

Message Text

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FOR DEA MANILA; FOR CUSTOMS REP., HONG KONG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AS

SUBJECT: CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN USG
CCINC PROGRAMS

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REF: A. STATE 258562

B. CANBERRA 07909

1. DURING CANBERRA VISIT LAST FALL, US CUSTOMS OPERATIONS
OFFICER FRANK KEENAN DISCUSSED AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS PARTICI-
PATION IN US CUSTOMS CCINC PROGRAMS WITH VARIOUS GOA
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OFFICIALS. FROM CUSTOMS: GORDON SHEEN, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, COMMERCIAL AND SPECIAL SERVICES, AND KEITH STILLING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INSPECTION BRANCH; FROM COMMONWEALTH POLICE: HARVEY BATES, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NARCOTICS; AND FROM DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: R.P. THROSSELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, TRAINING AND PERSONNEL, AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY.

2. DISCUSSIONS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN JOINT PROGRAMS SHOULD CONTINUE. AS AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS HAS NO FUNDS FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPATION BE FUNDED BY DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SINCE IT INVOLVES TRAINING OF FOREIGN OFFICERS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SHEEN AND THROSSELL AGREED IN SEPARATE MEETING THAT US GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE FORMAL REQUEST OF GOA

GOVERNMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS FOR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION.

3. AUSTRALIAN INPUT WOULD INVOLVE AVAILABILITY AND FUNDING (TRAVEL AND PER DIEM EXPENSES ONLY) OF GOA CUSTOMS OFFICERS FOR EACH OF UP TO FIVE PROGRAMS DURING CY 76. PROGRAMS COULD USE ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES IN WHICH AUSTRALIA MAY HAVE INTEREST. SCHEDULED FOR MARCH: THAILAND. TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH OR APRIL: HONG KONG (NEED TWO AUSTRALIANS FOR THIS PROGRAM). PROPOSED (AND LIKELY) FOR LATER IN YEAR: SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, BURMA AND NEPAL. PROPOSED (BUT NOT LIKELY): INDIA, SRI LANKA. ANTICIPATE MAXIMUM OF FIVE PROGRAMS FROM ABOVE LIST, EACH PROGRAM BEING TWO TO FOUR WEEKS (MOSTLY FOUR) IN DURATION PLUS A WEEK FOR TRAVEL AND SET-UP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROACH GOA AS APPROPRIATE TO REQUEST CONTINUED SUPPORT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN JOINT AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN TRAINING PROGRAM IN CY 1976. NOTE THAT NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TECHNIQUES ARE HIGHLIGHTED AND STRESSED, BUT PROGRAM CAN BE PROPERLY CALLED A BASIC CUSTOMS COURSE FOR LINE OFFICERS AND THEIR SUPERVISORS WITH MAJOR APPLICATION TO THE REVENUE PRODUCING AND PROTECTION ASPECTS OF CUSTOMS WORK, PRIMARY CONCERNS OF DEVELOPING

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AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALIKE. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT WHILE INFORMAL GOA/USG RELATIONSHIP IN THESE PROGRAMS HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL, FOR PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL PURPOSES A MORE PERMANENT, EVEN CONTRACTUAL, ARRANGEMENT IS NOW DESIRED. BRIEFING BOOKS HAVING BACKGROUND AND COURSE OUTLINE MATERIAL HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE EMBASSY AND GOA CUSTOMS.

5. FYI: CANADA CUSTOMS IS NOW INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING PROGRAMS, HAVING SENT TWO OFFICER/INSTRUCTORS TO WORK WITH AN AMERICAN TEAM IN EGYPT. EGYPTIAN AND OTHER HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE DESIRABILITY OF MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT CANADA WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT IN CY 1976, AND THAT OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT, MAKING THE CUSTOMS CCINC PROGRAMS A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. END FYI.

L. ACTION REQUESTED: WITH BATES AND OTHERS POST SHOULD ALSO RAISE MATTER OF GOA RADIO EQUIPMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDONESIAN NARCOTICS PROGRAM DISCUSSED LAST FALL. WHILE WE REALIZE THERE HAVE BEEN BUDGETARY

RESTRAINTS, A REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH POLICE, AS WELL AS A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A DECISION ON WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR GOA TO UNDERTAKE THIS PROGRAM WITH US. IF NOT, WE HOPE THE GOA WILL, NONETHELESS, DISCUSS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA WAYS THAT THE FLOW OF DRUGS THROUGH INDONESIA CAN BE STEMMED. INGERSOLL

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